Daily Report

Latin America

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Caricom Leaders Comment at Hamburg IDB Meeting

FL3003012693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By Kendol Organ]

[Text] Hamburg, Germany, March 29, CANA—Guyana's President Dr. Cheddi Jagan Monday called on the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to provide special assistance to the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to help the region meet the cost of unavoidable economic and social adjustment.

"I wish... To present the case for special concessional assistance for my country and for Caricom. Even though we are a string of small states, we bring distinctive features to this distinguish[ed] gathering which warrant more than marginal treatment," Dr. Jagan told the opening day of the 34th annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Jagan and Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford are the two Caricom heads of government attending the three-day meeting.

"When our inherited production structures face new markets, but cannot transform overnight to new opportunities, we need help," Dr. Jagan told representatives of the 45 nations which make up the IDB, the largest regional multi-lateral development institution. "We wish assistance in our own research and development, in agriculture, in bio-technology, in information systems," Dr. Jagan added. But, he said, "There are not costs that we ourselves can meet. When we turn to institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank, we are often told that, apart from Guyana, Caricom countries have to borrow at interest rates that are close to market rates. Almost all the economies in the Caribbean are growing too slowly to borrow at today's real rates of interest of five and six percent."

"In addition, the bank needs to develop innovative ways to differentiate the lending conditions of development banks. This will permit onlending to the Caribbean Development Bank so that the OECS countries can receive assistance on terms that their economies can afford," he added. But the Guyana president stressed that the support Caricom needs from the IDB must not put the interest of capital above humanity.

"In some countries in the Caribbean, human resources are the only resources we have," he said. But he noted that "the gestation period for this investment in human capital is long and does not warrant borrowing at market rates." Dr. Jagan said easing the heavy debt burden on Caricom would leave the region with more resources for social services. Caricom, he said, had a foreign debt of U.S.9 billion dollars, and in Guyana's case the foreign debt/service ratio in 1992 was 68 percent of merchandise export income while total budgetary debt payments in that year were 100 percent of current revenue.

"This meant an inadequate allocation for wages and salaries in the public service, and a mere 7.6 percent of budgetary expenditure on social services." Dr. Jagan warned the gathering that, "it is much cheaper to change some of the rules (of the bank) with respect to the finance of debt and of current expenditure of developing countries, than to spend enormous amounts trying to put an end to some of the consequences of not giving prior attention to these issues. Simply destroying coca fields in Latin America and marijuana fields in the Caribbean—four million trees in St. Vincent alone—and erecting barriers and "Berlin Walls" against immigration will not prove to be adequate," he added. "Ultimately the only solution to the social traumas we see around the world today is in the development of the people."

Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford said a "pipeline of projects" in the social sector of his country as well as restructuring the economy had also been his main talking point in discussions with the IDB. "Let me say, these programmes we're talking about are in the areas of the health sector, the tourism sector, in the sugar sector of our agriculture, and generally speaking they are in the whole area of restructuring of our economy," Sandiford told CANA. "We are seeking to pull together a programme which is part of our agenda for reform in order to change our economy to make it stronger, to make it leaner, and to bring about renewed growth and prosperity to our people," he added.

Earlier, IDB President Enrique Iglesias told the opening of the meeting social reform was firmly on the agenda of the bank as it helped Latin America and the Caribbean battle the effects of adjustments and the acute poverty that characterised the "lost decade of the eighties." But he warned that, "Social reform depends on economic reform. Without increased savings and investment... We will be condemned to having social reforms in name only."

Caricom's statement to the annual meeting will be made on Wednesday by Bahamas representative, Finance Minister Frank Watson. Trinidad and Tobago is represented by Finance Minister Lennie Saith, and the other IDB Caricom member, Jamaica, is attending at the level of its permanent secretary.

Cuba

State Council Appoints Robaina New Foreign Minister

PA3003133993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The Cuban State Council, in response to a proposal made by the Communist Party directorate, has appointed Roberto Robaina Gonzalez the new minister of foreign relations.

Robaina, who previously was the first secretary of the Young Communists Union, possesses the requirements to carry out efficiently the duties assigned to him by the party and the revolution, states a report published on 30 March by GRANMA.

The position was vacated by Ricardo Alarcon when he was elected president of the Cuban parliament.

Central Committee Member Carneado Dies

FL2903235993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Jose Felipe Carneado, head of the Office of Religious Affairs of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, died today as the result of a cardiovascular disease. Born on 21 June, 1915, Carneado began his fruitful life as a revolutionary in his student years, when he confronted Machado's tyranny. Following the triumph of 1959, he held several different posts, and his multiple talents also got him elected deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government in the recent 24 February elections.

Cuban In Quito Requests Asylum; Embassy Secretary Leaves Post

PA2703042093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1647 GMY 26 Mar 93

[Text] Quito, 26 Mar (EFE)—Ernesto Delgado Mompo, a 24-year old-Cuban, has asked for political asylum in Ecuador, according to a report made public on 25 March in Quito by Ceplicuba [expansion unknown], an organization of anti-Castro exiles.

A Ceplicuba communique states that Delgado, an expert in nutrition and former general secretary of the Communist Party in Plaza Havana Municipality, managed to leave the island even though he did not have authorization to do so. Delgado arrived in Ecuador on 11 March on an international flight.

The Cuban Embassy withheld Delgado's passport upon his arrival in Quito, therefore he decided not to return to his country.

Carlos Valdes Lopez, second secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Quito, gave up his post on 19 March and immediately traveled to Miami with his entire family.

Fleet Begins Fishing Early Off Canadian Coast

FL2703170593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The men of the Cuban fleet are already out fishing on the high seas. Just a few hours after having thrown out their first nets, the fishermen of the vessels Rio Almendares, Salado, Damuji, Moa, and Jibacoa are optimistic over the positive signs of hake and other kinds of fish.

These ships from the Cuban fishing fleet left Cuba a little over a week ago, and despite beginning the fishing campaign somewhat ahead of time, their freezer compartments are already accumulating food for the Cuban people.

Temperatures in the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia are at present between 6 and 10 degrees Celsius, and sometimes a dense fog prevents all visibility at a little under 50 meters away. Nevertheless, the men of the Cuban fishing fleet are showing they have the will and the skill to extract from the depths of the ocean the food that the nation needs—now more than ever, since it was recently hit hard by a freak storm.

Metallurgy and Electronics Union Congress Concludes

FL2903144593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The delegates to the Seventh Congress of the Metallurgy and Electronic Workers Union, which ended yesterday, have sent a letter to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro stressing their productive participation in agricultural tasks and ratifying their willingness to fulfill the goals and pledges made during this important event. In the letter to Fidel, the workers point out the content of the debates and their commitment to fulfill their duties regarding basic production aimed at developing strategic sectors.

The closing of the event was chaired by Pedro Ross, the secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation. On the final day of the congress, Angel Villareal was elected secretary general of the National Metallurgy and Electronics Union, other members of its national committee were elected, and seven special resolutions were approved.

Public Prosecutor Audits Reveal Economic Crimes

FL2703155093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Fiscal audits are a good way for the law to follow up on things, with a view to detecting crimes committed against the national people's, economy. In pursuance of this policy of fighting economic crime provoked by failure to monitor things properly and cases of administrative negligence, the Havana Province Office of the Public Prosecutor conducted fiscal audits at the Bacunayagua, Canasi, Santa Cruz, and Jibacoa livestock

farms, which produce milk and belong to the livestock-breeding enterprise of eastern Havana Province, where violations were found to have been committed. These violations, hidden by disorder, resulted in economic damage of over 4 million pesos.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor in Santa Cruz del Norte Municipality, Havana Province, upon confirming that a number of different violations had been committed, asked that eight disciplinary measures be taken against those responsible. It also lodged three complaints against the alleged perpetrators of a crime of theft. Criminal proceedings will be pursued against the people responsible for taking great quantities of milk for their personal use or to sell at profitable prices.

According to information from Maribel Castano of the Havana Province Office of the Public Prosecutor, during the fiscal audit conducted at the above mentioned livestock farms, it was established that there was a high death rate during 1992 because the prophylactic rotation of the animals in their stalls [cuartones] was not ensured. This created a favorable atmosphere for parasites. Hygiene was also found to have been bad, and it was discovered that the livestock had not been properly supplied with food and water.

Another of the violations found to have been committed was that the milk production plan of the units belonging to the livestock- breeding enterprise of eastern Havana Province was not fully met because the work of introducing and developing the voisin rational grazing system was deficient. In addition to this, the livestock herd was inadequately manipulated during the milking. An example of this is the fact that the [word indistinct] cows were not milked.

It was also established that the poor condition of the fencing resulted in the loss of several animals last year. Nevertheless, those responsible for this negligence were not held administratively and criminally accountable.

The Santa Cruz del Norte Municipality Office of the Public Prosecutor has imposed on the enterprise the requirement to establish and follow up on a schedule of measures with the aim of eliminating as quickly as possible all the administrative deficiencies found.

Minister on Measures To Meet Country's Oil Needs

PA2603224993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] With the national fuel saving program and the encouraging steps being taken in oil matters, Cuba hopes to meet this year's need for crude, which is estimated at 6.2 million tons. Basic Industry Vice Minister Jesus Perez Othon made that announcement in Havana, adding that as part of the country's oil program, contracts for oil exploration are being developed with companies to come to Cuba at their own expense. The purpose of this plan is to determine the appropriate market for the nation's crude potential.

He added that so far contracts have been signed with French, Swedish, and Canadian companies, and seven oil blocks have been agreed upon. In addition, the country opened bidding for another 11 oil blocks during a first round that took place in Calgary and London in 11 February with 85 foreign companies participating. Perez Othon also said 12 major wells have been found east of Havana and Varadero. The work conducted there with the Canadian Northwest company is to maintain and expand those wells.

This year 1.3 million tons of national crude are expected to be extracted, and 900 tons of that amount will guarantee from 30 to 40 percent of the country's electricity, Perez Othon said. Cuba has the infrastructure and technical level necessary to achieve that goal and face future challenges, the official concluded.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 23 - 26 Mar

FL2703011993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 23 and 26 March.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 23 March reports that in Santiago de Cuba, sugarcane workers are meeting to analyze sugarcane harvest efforts. They need to maintain efficiency and stabilize the milling process which was affected by the recent storms. Esteban Lazo attended and said it is vital for the country to meet the sugar plan and that the harvest must become the priority task for all Santiago residents.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 23 March reports that negotiations between Cuban and Brazilian businessmen to establish industrial joint ventures are continuing in Havana. The Brazilian trade mission is composed of close to 40 Brazilian businessmen. One of them, (Natal Coco) of the Coco Heavy Equipment Factory of Brazil, interviewed by Radio Rebelde, says his company does good business with Cuba, and has made sprinklers for use in Cuban agriculture. (Coco) adds that the company is now working with the Cuban KTP cane-cutting machines, the first five of which it imported into Brazil a year ago. He says they are selling this Cuban machine in Brazil, which has a strong market for them. (Coco) says Brazil can absorb some 4,000 or 5,000 such machines.

The station also reports that the big spring harvest of cacao has begun in Guantanamo Province, and that the workers hope to exceed 35,000 quintals of cacao this year. Guantanmo is the country's largest cacao-producing province, responsible for guaranteeing approximately 70 percent of the national cacao production. The Guantanamo correspondent reports that the province produced 34,000 quintals in 1992. It has 623 caballerias planted in cacao, and this year plans to plant some 30 caballerias in more productive varieties of cacao.

Rebelde further reports that the Camaguey authorities of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples have received a new 2.5-ton donation of school supplies, medicines, and foodstuffs from the Argentine "Ciao, Embargo" Solidarity Group. The group that delivered the donation is currently touring sites of interest in Camaguey.

The station says that the first laboratory for applying nuclear techniques to the agricultural-livestock sciences will be inaugurated in Granma Province on 23 March. The laboratory will be located at the Jorge Dimitrov Institute in Bayamo.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 24 March reports that sugarcane workers have intensified efforts to catch up and recover from the effects of recent bad weather; 1,300 caballerias had been planted by 22 March, representing 52 percent of the plan for the end of March.

Radio Reloj at 1506 GMT on 24 March reports that farmers from the state cooperatives and small farmer sectors in Holguin Province have exceeded by 6 percent their cold-season planting programs for tubers, vegetables, and grains. A total of over 1,786 caballerias of these crops were planted between September 1992 and February 1993, approximately 100 more than planned. Almost 670 caballerias were planted in grain.

Cuba Vision Television at 0100 GMT on 25 March reports that nuclear specialists will increase their participation in the main economic plans of the country. Nuclear methods are currently used in the medical, nickel, oil, and agriculture fields. Today, the general secretariat of Nuclear Affairs held an assessment meeting to discuss their role in these fields for 1993. Andres Garcia de la Cruz, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission, stressed the importance of continuing their efforts in these fields and in training personnel. In 1992 the commission had 32 important achievements that have not yet been implemented.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 26 March reports that Havana oil workers have pledged to produce 1.3 million metric tons of oil in 1993, 90,000 of which will be used in electric plants and cement factories as fuel oil. This means that 30 or 40 percent of electric generation will be obtained through Cuban oil. Jesus Perez Othon, the first vice minister of the basic industry, held a news conference during which he spoke about efforts to achieve this goal.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 26 March reports that in Granma Province, 1,000 caballerias are being irrigated by microjet on two plantain-producing farms at the Bejuquero Basic Production Unit, which belongs to the Bayamo Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise. One thousand plantain caballerias, or 25 percent of the crop—which yields 40 percent of the production—are irrigated by microjet.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 26 March reports that the first Cuban sorbitol factory, located in Camaguey Province, will begin operation in April. The facility, built at a cost of over 10 million pesos, will annually produce 10,000 tons of sorbitol from sugarcane. Sorbitol is used to manufacture vitamin E and medicines, as well as ice cream, toothpaste, and other products.

Raul Castro Sends Letter to Granma Province Students

FL2703022693 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, has sent a letter to students of the Ariel Hidalgo School in the mountainous regions of San Lorenzo in Bartolome Maso Municipality, Granma Province. In the letter, Raul expresses his confidence in the youths of the school, and urges them to take care of the facility and take the utmost advantage of the education provided.

The school was built based on ideas and suggestions made by Army General Raul Castro during a visit to the region. The school meets the requirements for the development of the mountainous region and provides every level of education, including preuniversity and technical courses.

Japanese Government Donates Generators, Medicine

FL2703030293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The solidarity aid of the Japanese Government has arrived in Cuba by air and was received by Raul Taladrid, the vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. A Mexican airline brought to Havana the first portion of the Japanese aid, valued at over $100,000.

[Begin Taladrid recording] Twenty-five emergency electric generators and medicine. What is presently arriving from Mexico are the generators. The medicine will arrive from Europe, which is where they have specialized warehouses for this type of emergency. [end recording]

During the formal presentation of the donation, Japanese Ambassador to Cuba Nobuo Miyamoto stated that Japan was moved by the devastation caused by the tropical storm and that this is a time of solidarity.

Dominican Republic

Entry of Haitian Officers Under Negotiation

FL2903160593 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] In the event of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti, there could be an stampede of high-level officers to the Dominican Republic. It was reported that the Armed Forces are arranging the entry of these officers into Santo Domingo as part of negotiations

being held in this regard. It was announced that the arrangements for the stay of the high-level officers in Santo Domingo are being conducted in a very discreet manner through diplomatic channels. It is rumored in Haitian political circles that during the course of the negotiations, former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will travel to Santo Domingo to discuss this situation. It was reported that this is one of the conditions for Aristide's return to Haiti.

Guyana

African Organization 'Denounces' Mistreatment of Angolans

FL2703015093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2221 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Georgeown, Guyana, March 26, CANA—Police Commissioner Laurie Lewis said Friday some Angolans had been "misbehaving" while in police custody and warned the police would not tolerate further misbehaviour, or the breaking of the country's laws.

"They started first with a hunger strike then they threw some chairs around and a few of them were misbehaving," Lewis told reporters at his monthly news conference. He said about four of the 11 Angolans had damaged police property and even got physical with police as they were being removed to another location.

"During the course of that movement on Monday, one of them found it necessary to strip himself in the nude. Another one who admitted subsequently to an official, said that where he comes from, if you are removed from one location to another,it is known that you are not seen again, and he felt that this is the same sort of thing that was going to happen to him, so he attempted to throw himself through a window," Lewis said.

The police commissioner said he was prepared to reunite them with the other seven Angolans and one Liberian in another location once they understood they must behave and respect the country's laws. Lewis said a medical report on their health reported no evidence of ill-treatment.

But the African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA) accused the police of "brutally" beating the Africans because they had gone on a hunger strike to protest the "deplorable conditions" of the detention quarters and to draw atention to the "blatant human rights violations" being committed against them.

"The ACDA denounces this most horrific and barbarous act committed against defenceless human beings who sought refuge here from political mayhem and genocide," the organisation, termed less [passage indistinct] this state of affairs in Guyana where helpless individuals are denied basic human rights... We find it unconscionable that no attempt was made to resolve their hunger strike through mediation"

The ACDA is demanding a public inquiry into the alleged beatings, the return of the four to their colleagues, political asylum for all 12 Africans, and the immediate release of the lone pregnant Angolan whom the ACDA said was also beaten.

Lewis acknowledged the Africans were getting concerned about being detained for over three months, adding that they are also getting "very anxious about their well being." He said he had since instructed that they be allowed to walk around the police compound where they are being held, but said the police were not geared for such activities.

"Understand that we are not geared for this type of activity. We don't run a hotel. I run lock-ups and what we have done is discomoded some policemen and housed them (the Angolans) in those quarters," the commissioner told reporters. The commissioner warned [that] the police force would not tolerate any further misbehaviour, saying: "What they did is contrary to what is good behaviour and I am going to deal with misbehaviour by anybody at any stage in any place at any time."

The 11 Angolans and a Liberian, all seeking political asylum here, were discovered in Guyana between December 30 last year and january 20. The Guyana government was discussing their future at its weekly cabinet meeting Friday.

Haiti

Army Intervenes To Clear Roads in Saint-Marc

FL2603170093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] A distinct tension was prevalent in Saint-Marc this morning. Burning barricades were set up at several crossroads in the city. Graffiti and slogans hostile to the current authorities were written on various walls in the area of Nissage Saget [former Haitian president]. The military was forced to intervene to clear the main roads of Saint-Marc.

Group Distributes Pro-Aristide Leaflets

FL3003123493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Today, in Saint-Marc many anti-government leaflets and graffiti were noted. For the second time in a week, the people in Saint-Marc were active again. Several slogans in favor of the return to power of Father Aristide were written on the city's walls. Our correspondent Leonard Exantus has more details.

[Begin Exantus recording, in Creole] The city of Saint-Marc woke up on 29 March covered with leaflets and graffiti against the current government and in favor of the ousted president. Police patrols during the evening in Saint-Marc could not prevent the members of the UJR,

Union of Saint-Marc Young Revolutionary People, from functioning. They littered the city with leaflets displaying President Aristide's pictures and different slogans such as: "Up with the 29 March Constitution!" "Down with the de facto government!" "It has been too long, let us rise up in a swift mobilization!" The leaflets were signed by the UJR.

We point out that the city of Saint-Marc, which did not have electricity for a long time, now has had electricity 24 hours a day since the 26 March incident. The electricity company has issued a communique regarding the lack of energy, which still requires rationing. [end recording]

Gathering Canceled in Favor of 29 Mar Reflection Day

FL2903161993 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Political organizations launching an "Operation Respect" for the Constitution had announced a peaceful gathering in front of the Legislative Palace for the morning of 29 March. They have, however, canceled this gathering because of a day of reflection that parliamentarians have organized at the Legislative Palace.

Tropic FM Journalist Sought By Military

FL2903162993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] This morning, we have a special thought for Journalist Johnson Legrand, a Tropic FM correspondent who is being sought. He is in the Artibonite and is being threatened by the military in Gonaives, according to press information we have received here. It should be noted that on 23 March at about 1900 GMT, a commando unit of three military men accompanied by undercover policemen in military clothes, carrying guns, and without a warrant showed up at the residence of Johnson Legrand's wife on Alteaga street, demanding to know the whereabouts of the journalist. They are seeking the journalist, who is in hiding.

Jamaica

Security for Election Officials Increased

FL2903200493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 29, CANA—The Jamaica Government has ordered police protection for all categories of electoral officers ahead of Tuesday's general election, following the murder of a returning officer over the weekend.

Increased protection was ordered for director of elections, Noel Lee, and his family. Lee was subjected to death threats recently following accusations by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party, vehemently denied by him, that the electoral office had left thousands of names off the voters list.

In addition, police protection is being provided for returning officers, election clerks, presiding officers as well as indoor and outdoor agents for all candidates.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, in issuing the orders over the weekend, said no attempt from any quarter to subvert the electoral process by creating an environment of fear, should be allowed to succeed.

"We will not hesitate to take any further measures as may become necessary to protect our democracy", he said.

Patterson described the killing of the returning officer for Central St Catherine, Dennis Brooks, as an attack "on the pillars of our democratic institutions and processes."

Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) leader Edward Seaga, and candidates for Central St Catherine, Bruce Golding representing the JLP and Clinton "Jingles" Davey representing the ruling Peoples National Party (PNP), have also voiced outrage and condemnation of the incident.

But Golding, the JLP chairman, went further, suggesting that PNP supporters were responsible for the murder of Brooks who was relaxing with a friend at a shop after midnight early Sunday when he was shot.

Golding said Brooks was held hostage, abused and threatened by PNP supporters during an instruction class for presiding officers and poll clerks in Spanish Town on Saturday.

In another incident over the weekend that has heightened tension here, two persons including a policeman was shot and killed by soldiers at the constituency office of the JLP in north west St Ann in northern Jamaica.

High level police investigations were continuing Monday to piece together the circumstances in which three soldiers shot and killed police constable R.B. Sinclair and a JLP party worker Desmond Miller. An 18-year-old woman, Antoinette Graham, was also injured.

Reports say the soldiers fired shots after a discussion with Sinclair during which he attempted to identify himself by reaching for his identification card. The soldiers apparently thought he was reaching for a gun.

Election Eve Violence Anticipated, Curfew Urged

FL2903231493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2014 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 29, CANA—At least two persons were shot and injured Sunday night in the traditionally volatile Olympic Gardens area of Western

Kingston in apparent politically motivated incidents ahead of Tuesday's general elections.

Police were unable to give details but said two persons were shot and injured during a flare-up of shooting in Olympic Gardens. However, Father Richard Albert, an influential Roman Catholic priest who lives in the area, told a radio station here that as many as four people had been shot and injured during the shooting incidents which continued throughout the night.

"Up until last night we haven't had one gunshot in months," said Father Albert, "then last night it all exploded." The priest urged he security forces to impose a curfew across the city late Monday, the final night before the election.

Jamaica has had a long history of violent election campaigns, a factor which has influenced the ruling Peoples National Party (PNP) and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to sign a code of conduct aimed at binding candidates and their supporters to a peaceful and nonconfrontational campaign.

While the campaign so far bears no resemblance to the bitter politically tribalised warfare that characterised the 1976 and 1980 elections, it has been marred by a number of violent incidents. The most serious occured over the weekend with the murder Saturday night of an electoral returning officer in central St. Catherine. In another incident Saturday, a policeman assigned as a bodyguard to JLP candidate for North West St. Ann, Ernest Smith, and a JLP supporter were shot and killed by soldiers at the JLP's constituency office in mysterious circumstances.

Meanwhile, the JLP has been charging that the PNP is planning a campaign of "mayhem" and electoral fraud in a bid to win the election. PNP spokesmen have angrily denied the charges suggesting for their part that the opposition JLP is setting the stage for its "own agenda."

JLP Maintains Attack on Integrity of Voters List

FL3003012893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2352 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 29, CANA—The opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) maintained its attack on the integrity of the voters register on the eve of Tuesday's general election which opinion polls say Prime Minister P.J Patterson's People's National Party (PNP) will win.

In the latest of a long series of charges claiming inaccuracy on the voters list and incompetence of the part of the electoral office, JLP general secretary, Ryan Peralto, complained Monday of numerous cases of persons living in one parish with their names appearing to vote in another—in some cases scores of miles away. The problem related to a supplementary list to the main voters register and which was to have represented the final register after many mopping up exercises.

"We need to withdraw these lists and correct the problem immediately," Peralto said in a letter to director of elections, Noel Lee. The JLP general secretary said that using the list for voting would be "laying the foundation for massive fraud." Speaking to journalists Monday, Peralto was more strident in his attack on the supplementary register and seemed to hint at the possibility of deliberate fraud, particularly in the southern belt of the island.

"Interestingly, this belt is one in which some of the top leadership of the labour party are running," declared Peralto. These include party chairman, Bruce Golding, deputy leaders Enid Bennett, Anthony Johnson, and Neville Lewis; and elder statesman and one-time prime minister, Hugh Shearer.

However, the governing PNP has dismissed the JLP's suggestion of possible fraud, and, like election committee chairman, Professor Gladstone Mills, did not see the mix-up as a problem that could not not be corrected before polls opened Tuesday.

"As far as we are concerned, it is not a major problem," said PNP campaign spokesman, Ralston Smith. "We have had elections in the past in which supplementary lists have been produced on the morning of the election." Smith also quoted PNP general secretary, Dr. Peter Phillips, as saying that the problem did nto appear to be "widespread. The list can and will be corrected," Phillips was quoted as saying.

Mills, whose committee oversees elections here, said the problem developed because of constituency boundary adjustments in southern Jamaica.

"Apparently, the problem can be corrected with simple inputting of computer coding and can be made quickly," he said. The electoral committee is made up of two representatives each from the JLP and the PNP and three independent mebers appointed by the governor general. This is latest of a number of complaints by the JLP about the electoral process, including two public attacks on election director Lee by JLP leader, Edward Seaga.

The quarrels over the voters register has to a significant extent overshadowed the economic and social issues and the question of leadership style which both sides have portrayed as the main themes of the election. JLP has characterised the past four years of PNP government as being an unremitting disaster in economic management, evidenced by high inflation, a rapidly devaluing dollar, and a breakdown in social services.

However, the PNP has been brandishing its bold initiatives of economic deregulation, including the liberalisation of the foreign exchange market. The party has been highlighting the consensual leadership style of Prime Minister Patterson against the perceived combative style of Seaga.

There has been a running battle between Lee and the JLP over the number of people to be on the [word indistinct] and the accuracy of the numbers. The JLP has charged that thousands of perosns, ostensibly JLP supporters, were left off the list either through incompetence or fraud. Just about a million persons are on the electoral register following an enumeration process that was fraught with problems. Thousands of people, apparently reflecting a mood of apathy, refused to be enumerated. The register is less than the 1.1 million who were on the list for the 1989 election, and the 1.2 million originally projected.

Lee has confronted each accusation head-on, providing analyses of numbers to defend his accuracy. However, his office was embarassed Friday when voting by the security forces had to be put back a day because of computer foul-ups that prevented the extraction of the securityy forces list from the master register.

The JLP has argued that their compalints about the list stemmed from the haste by patterson to call the election and claimed that friday's chaos was a foretaste of what will happen tuesday.

Mills conceded that the latest problem with the register Monday was not the kind the electoral committee expected to encounter when a new electoral system was put in place in 1979. However, he didn't expect the kinds of problems that occured with the security forces when the rest of the country voted Tuesday.

The latest opinion poll, published Sunday by the SUNDAY HERALD newspaper proejcted the PNP to win up to 44 of the 60 parliamentary seats. The poll produced for the HERALD and Radio Jamaica by Don Anderson of Market Research Ltd. gave the PNP a 53.5 percent support among those who would vote and 46.5 to the JLP. Anderson declared 28 seats as "safe" for the PNP and seven for the JLP. There were 25 marginal seats—in which the lead for either side was below 10 percent—but with 16 of these leaning towards the PNP. However, JLP leader Seaga said Sunday that the elction was too close to call because of the number of marginal seats up for grabs. In such a situation, "any number can play," he said.

This was a toning down of the JLP's original scatching attack on the Anderson poll which the party had rejected as "without authority or accuracy." The JLP had recalled that in the 1989 election, Anderson's poll were off the mark and a "total disaster." Ironically, those polls favoured by the JLP and was embraced by the party.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Common External Tariff To Be Implemented by Jun

FL2903200393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1629 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, March 29, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis, one of the few remaining Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries to implement the Common External Tariff (CET), aimed at protecting regional produce from extra-regional imports, says it intends to do so by June.

"My government is satisfied that we can now take this bold step quite confidently, and plans are underway for implementing the cet no later than June 30," Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds told the eleventh annual private sector banquet here at the weekend.

He said the road to the achievement of a CET acceptable to all member countries of Caricom had been long and arduous and generated considerable discussion and controversy in various forums throughout the region.

Simmonds, a former chairman of Caricom, said that fortunately the countries of the region had reached agreement and "it is time for us to act". He however noted that it was no secret that his administration was deeply concerned about the level of the tariff of the original cet proposals.

"We felt that it was far too high and were particularly worried about the possible adverse impact of an unduly high CET on the cost of living here in our federation and on our fiscal position," he added.

"In spite of this we did not sit back and fold our arms but actively participated in all negotiations concerning the measure until member countries could eventually come to an acceptable compromise in respect of the level of the tariff," he added.

Under the new proposals the highest rates are set at 40 and 35 per cent instead of the 45 per cent originaly proposed. The lowest rates are set at zero per cent for the member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The prime minister added that St. Kitts and Nevis had successfully negotiated the right to apply even lower rates to certain goods of particular cost of living concerns. He said it was also agreed that the tariffs would be reduced on a phased basis over time, "so that a maximum rate of 20 per cent will be achieved in 1998".

He said this five-year period over which the rates would be reduced was intended to serve as a grace period during which regional enterprises could improve on efficiency and competitiveness to enable them to compete with foreign goods in the region and foreign markets.

The prime minister urged the private sector to take up the challenge "so that we can continue to achieve high rates of economic growth, increase our foreign exchange earnings, create new jobs and build on the substantial social and economic progress we have achieved over the years".

St. Lucia

Prime Minister Compton Discusses Banana Issue

FL2703191793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1851 GMT 27 Mar 93

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, March 27, CANA—St. Lucia's prime minister, John Compton, has underscored the importance of the Geest fruit-shipping company at a time when Caribbean banana growers are mulling over the idea of going into shipping. Breaking his silence on the controversy surrounding the acquisition of two new vessels by Geest, the British buyers of Windward Islands fruit, Compton said:

"... At this point in time, I am not at all sure that we can survive without Geest."

The STAR newspaper here has published a secret St. Lucia Government document on negotiations held in London last year on the acquisition of the ships, contending that banana farmers had been made to pay for the vessels. Geest and the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (Winban) denied the report. The document, however, stated that the islands had missed an excellent opportunity of acquiring the ships.

Compton said that given the present problems facing the vital banana industry, he was disturbed at newspaper articles on the issue of ownership of the vessels. He said some articles were "deliberately designed to do the utmost harm to our relationship with Geest."

"All kinds of outrageous accusations have been made against a company with which we have traded for nearly 40 years and which has contributed immensely to the progress we have made over these years," Compton added.

Compton said as the islands together with Geest prepare to face the enormous challenges of saving the banana industry, "it is absolutely essential that there is that trust and confidence between the Windward Islands as banana producers and Geest as the marketing agents of these bananas."

"We cannot win if we fight, not only against external forces, but within our own camp, with one's partner," he warned.

Compton said he was upset at the leakage of information relating to the negotiations. "What information we obtain, we must use it to our own advantage," he said.

"We must, however, show that we are worthy of trust and I am sure that the shareholders of Geest, reading the vulgar attacks made against that company, may be wondering whether we are worthy of such trust, and whether in the battle in which they too are engaged.... We are reliable allies in the defence of their interest."

Compton said the attacks had done much harm to the country and said the recent interest of fruit companies Dole and Chiquita in Geest "shows that Geest can survive without us."

"Geest has already hedged its bets by producing in Costa Rica. At this particular point in time, I am not at all sure that we can survive without Geest," he remarked.

Compton said the Latin American Countries, which are mounting a serious threat to the Caribbean banana industry through competition, had submitted a 50-page document on Thursday to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) challenging the European community's agreement on regulating the banana market in Europe. He said the Windward Islands, which are not members of GATT, "have no right of audience."

"Fortunately, however, a Caricom (Caribbean Community) country, Jamaica, is a member and we of the Windward Islands and Belize will contribute to the cost of our defence to this challenge," he reported. Compton said the islands were also joining Jamaica in the legal challenge by Germany in the European Court of Justice. The Germans are also challenging the EEC agreement.

"Fourthly, there is the commercial challenge by two of the main competing companies, Dole and Chiquita, which have made a bid to purchase the controlling interest in Geest, Compton said, adding, "here we can only hope that a hostile takeover of Geest will be successfully restricted."

"We have no say in the matter. This is a public company whose shares are publicly traded," Compton said.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Government Drops U.S. Contract, Buys Guyanese Sugar

FL3003001393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, March 29, CANA—Guyana will begin supplying St. Vincent and the Grenadines with brown sugar from June, the lone importer has announced. Mourine de Freitas, manager of the government-owned marketing corporation, sole importer of sugar, said a current contract with United States interests would not be renewed when it expires in April this year.

The local requirement for brown sugar is 500 metric tonnes every six weeks, which is usually obtained from various sources, including Central America. De Freitas said because the transportation problems should either be eliminated or substantially reduced, the cost to consumers would be reduced.

Brown sugar currently retails at EC75 cents (one EC dollar = 37 cents U.S.) per pound in districts close to the main commercial centre in the capital, Kingstown. St.

Vincent and the Grenadines will, however, need to continue looking to other sources to supply its requirements of granulated sugar.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Addresses Private Sector on CET Reduction

FL2903233893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2134 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 29, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning told the country's private sector Monday that the reduction of the Caribbean Community's Common External Tarfiff (CET) was influenced by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Caricom heads of government at a special meeting last October agreed to a phased reduction in the CET rates with the objective of achieving a rate structure of five to 20 percent by January 1, 1998. The original CET had a 45-percent ceiling.

Noting that with the establishment of NAFTA, Trinidad and Tobago would be forced to compete for market share in United States and Canada, Manning said Mexico held a comparative advantage in terms of preferential market access because of its membership in the trade agreement, cheaper labour cost, and its attractiveness to investors because of geographical proximity to the United States.

"The focus of NAFTA is free trade through the removal or phasing down of import tariff rates. To this end, members of NAFTA will gradually reduce tariff to an initial maximum level of 20 percent, and in some instances as low as five percent over a specified period of time," he told about 300 businessmen of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce. "The recent reduction in the tariff rates under the CET was influenced by this move towards free trade by these three large trading countries, and in particularly since other countries in Latin America are actively seeking to join NAFTA."

The prime minister said following the removal of the negative list, a system of import surcharges was imposed on extra-Caricom imports similiar to those manufactured locally. The surcharges, he said, were introduced to offer temporary protection as local manufacturers adjusted to the prospect of increased competition.

"These surcharges were scheduled to be reduced annually on a phased basis to a level corresponding to the revised CET at the end of 1994. However, (with) the advent of NAFTA and the reduction of the tariff, manufacturers will not enjoy the full extent of protection originally intended under the import surchage regime," Manning said.

Salinas Appoints Communications Secretary, Others

PA3003042593 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 29 March appointed Emilio Gamboa Patron as secretary of communications and transportation to replace Andres Caso Lombardo, who was assigned to an important position in the Mexican foreign service.

The president called on Genaro Borrego Estrada, president of the National Executive Committee of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, to replace Emilio Gamboa as director general of the Mexican Social Security Institute.

President Salinas, through the finance and public credit secretary, appointed Jacques Rogozinski as the new director general of the National Bank of Public Works and Services. This appointment will become effective 12 April. Until 29 March, Dr. Rogozinski was chief of the Divestment Unit of the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat.

President Salinas also proposed to the General Assembly of the Institute of the National Housing Fund for Workers the appointment of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu as director general of this organization, to become effective on 2 April. Ruiz will complete his term as constitutional governor of the Guerrero State on 31 March.

Delegates Elect Fernando Ortiz New PRI National Presid[illegible]

PA3003042193 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Telephone report by Juan Manuel Renteria from Aguas Calientes—live]

[Text] Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] delegates moments ago voted unanimously to elect Fernando Ortiz Arana as the new PRI national president. Senator Jose Luis la Madrid was elected PRI secretary general. I repeat, Fernando Ortiz Arana is the new PRI president and Jose Luis La Madrid the new secretary general. We were told they will be installed on 30 March.

Official Protests Construction of Walls at Border

PA2703194293 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] On the border between San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora and Arizona, a steel wall is being constructed. U.S. authorities claim the wall is to halt the traffic of illegal aliens and drug traffickers. The border patrol in Yuma, Arizona—with the support of more than 30 Marines—is currently building a wall with steel plates, which are used to construct landing fields during wartime. This is taking place along the border of San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, and Los Algodones in Baja California. The wall will measure 3 meters high and 6 km 436 meters long. According to Miguel Leiva, deputy chief of the border patrol in Yuma, Arizona, it is expected that the wall will reduce drastically the number of illegal aliens crossing the border into the United States.

Annually, an average of 30,000 persons enter the United States through the San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, border. Nevertheless, since the start of the wall construction in September 1992, the number of illegal aliens crossing over was reduced by 5,000 and it is expected this number will continue to go down.

For Jorge Bustamante, president of Northern Border School, [Colegio Frontera Norte] the U.S. Government's decision to construct steel walls on its border with Mexico is in response to political issues and not for alleged damage caused by the illegal aliens. Here is what Jorge Bustamante said:

[Begin Bustamante recording] More than anything, this is a political measure. There is no real need for this. Nevertheless, during economic recessions, it is common for different level groups to single out immigrants as scapegoats for diverse calamities. The politicians then decide to remedy these so-called calamities. One of the ideas they came up with are these walls. [end recording]

Bustamante assured that walls have not been successful. As an example he said that 55 percent of all Mexican immigrants to the United States cross over at the Tijuana-San Diego border, where a steel wall was constructed. Andres Rozenthal, Mexican deputy foreign relations secretary, called the construction of walls on several border towns as unacceptable.

[Begin Rozenthal recording] We will do everything in our power—from the point of view of what the federal government can do—to try to convince the U.S. Government that it is not through walls that neighbors will get closer. [end recording]

In spite of the protests by the Mexican Government, the construction of the steel wall continues.

Police Discover 500 Kg Cocaine Shipment

PA2903004293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Hermosillo (Mexico), 28 Mar (EFE)—Judicial sources on 28 March reported that the Mexican police found a shipment of 500 kg of cocaine in a town that borders on the United States.

Benjamin Garcia Zebadua, the prosecutor general of northeastern Sonora State, said the drugs were dropped from an aircraft on to a lot in San Luis Rio Colorado on 27 March. The town is approximately 100 km from Hermosillo, the Sonora State capital.

After finding the shipment, the police arrested eight alleged drug traffickers when they attempted to refuel the aircraft where the drug shipment originated. Garcia Zebadua said the aircraft crew, who apparently were South Americans, managed to escape when they detected the presence of local authorities.

Along with the cocaine, the police seized five vehicles, four 38- caliber weapons, two cellular telephones, three portable radios, and other goods.

El Salvador

Nicaraguan President Begins Two-Day Visit

PA3003000093 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said upon arrival in El Salvador on 29 March that her meetings with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani during her two-day visit will strengthen bilateral relations. President Chamorro said that these meetings with the various Central American presidents seek to highlight the peace processes being undertaken in the region's countries.

[Begin Chamorro recording] On making this first official visit to El Salvador, I express my confidence that the excellent relations between our nations will be further strengthened. The peace that prevails in our countries should enable us to advance on the path of cooperation and to consolidate the regional integration process. El Salvador and Nicaragua, just as the other sister Central American nations, are united not only by history, geography, language, race, culture, and art, but most importantly by the common destiny of building a single Central American fatherland, in which dialogue and understanding will prevail over discord and disunity. In addition to our peoples' and governments' efforts to achieve peace and establish democracy after more than a decade of unfortunate internal confrontations, we must join together to strengthen development and economic growth, which will enable us to provide our peoples with decent living conditions and better opportunities to face the great challenges of the future. [end recording]

President Chamorro visit El Salvador on 29 and 30 March. She will meet with representatives of the country's political and social sectors. The Nicaraguan president will visit the Legislative Assembly and will meet with representatives of the private sector. She will return to Nicaragua on 30 March.

FMLN Commander on U.S. Advisers' Withdrawal

PA3003025493 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report by Guillermo Rivera]

[Text] Former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Commander Nidia Diaz [Maria Concepcion Valladares] said on 29 March that the FMLN is satisfied that 50 percent of the U.S. advisers in El Salvador will be withdrawn. They stated that they had supported the Armed Forces during the civil war, she added.

Diaz referred to recently circulated reports about the withdrawal of approximately 50 percent of the U.S. advisers who were deployed to various garrisons in our country and who had participated in the Salvadoran conflict.

She said the advisers' withdrawal is a result of differences between the U.S. and Salvadoran military and of the pressure exerted by Bill Clinton's administration to clarify charges of human rights violations in El Salvador. Nidia Diaz said she is satisfied with the withdrawal, adding that the advisers should never have been sent to El Salvador in the first place.

[Begin Diaz recording] Personally, I feel satisfied that those who should never have come to our country in the first place are leaving. U.S. interference is one of the factors that extended the war and precluded a political and negotiated settlement of the conflict. The United States delivered more than $6 billion in aid to various Salvadoran administrations, and many U.S. advisers were deployed to our country—in fact, I was injured in 1985 and a U.S. adviser captured me.

The adviser also provided training to the Salvadoran military. Fortunately, the correlation of forces at the local and international level prompted the Bush administration to realize that a political solution was the only possibility. The Clinton administration is now in charge, and we think there is a possibility that El Salvador will be allowed to pursue its own destiny. For many years now, Democratic Party members and politicians have made an effort to curtail U.S. aid and its level of interference.

The Truth Commission does not specify the role played by the United States throughout the conflict, but the U.S. allies, meaning the Army, face an extremely high number of charges. For example, if I help a military force like the Army and later realize the Truth Commission issued a series of charges against the Army....[pauses] That is why a thorough investigation has been initiated in the United States—to find out how U.S. funds supported the Army's impunity.

I believe the U.S. advisers' withdrawal is a result of the pressure exerted by the United States to conduct an investigation and to follow up on the charges against the Salvadoran Army because impunity must not prevail in the country. The possibility of [Defense and Public Security Minister General Rene Emilio] Ponce's resignation was hastily announced a short time ago. The United States said it accepts this as part of the negotiations.

We believe this is important because it marks the discrepancy between the Salvadoran Army and the United States; and the situation has worsened because the Clinton administration is exerting pressure for the Truth Commission report to be investigated and implemented. The Salvadoran Army is exerting pressure—out of a false nationalism and defense of the country's sovereignty—for the U.S. advisers' withdrawal. I believe this is a result of Clinton's policy and the pressure exerted by the United States that the outcome of the conflict leads to the truth and the assumption of responsibilities. [end recording]

Nidia Diaz said a consensus prevails within the FMLN concerning the implementation of the Truth Commission recommendations. A council is currently debating what metholodogy to endorse for the the agreements' implementation.

FMLN To Surrender Weapons Cache for Destruction

PA3003010593 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party of the People's Revolutionary Army, PRS-ERP, National Directorate in San Salvador on 29 March]

[Text] The Salvadoran Revolutionary Party of the People's Revolutionary Army [PRS-ERP] hereby announces that on 29 March, in the presence of UN observers, Comrade Joaquin Villalobos will deliver a weapons cache to the Nicaraguan authorities in Managua for destruction later. The cache was located at an important clandestine operations base, from which the People's Revolutionary Army [ERP] carried out its operations against El Salvador. The cache consists of more than 600 rifles and other weapons that were part of the organization's strategic reserves.

In surrendering the cache, we are complying with the agreements reached with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali regarding the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's weapons stocks. The ERP, in so doing, closes its gunrunning operations into El Salvador from all over Central America. We expect this move will contribute to increase the confidence of international communities in our country and in the fact that peace is irreversible in El Salvador. We also trust that the recent difficulties that appeared in the peace process will be overcome.

We hereby take this opportunity to apologize to the governments of the Central American countries, especially Nicaragua and Honduras, for any inconvenience our operations may have caused during the war in El Salvador. The ERP hopes the destruction of this cache of weapons will also contribute to the stabilization of Nicaragua, to whom the cause of democracy and peace in El Salvador owes so much.

[Signed] PRS-ERP National Directorate
[Issued] San Salvador, 29 March 1993

Cristiani on Amnesty, Defense Ministry Replacements

PA3003024893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report by Enrique Lemus on news conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with an unidentified moderator and local and foreign reporters in San Salvador on 29 March—recorded]

[Text] [Lemus] President Alfredo Cristiani has announced that the official delegation that will inform the UN of the government's compliance with the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc and Truth Commissions will depart for New York on 30 March. He added that the delegation will be headed by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria.

Cristiani stressed that he will maintain his position of applying the amnesty law to those implicated in various crimes according to the Truth Commission, despite requests to the contrary by international representatives.

[Cristiani] There are no names yet on replacements in the Defense Ministry. We will begin with the deputy minister, whose name will be announced in the first few days of April.

With regard to the separation of government officials, we must bear in mind both the amnesty law and the constitutional right to work. The right to work is stated in the Constitution. In principle, we understand the commission will send us its report for its final revision. The commission has noted that there is a relationship between the constitutional principle of the right to work and the effects of the amnesty law.

I must say, however, that in the case of the Armed Forces—we are talking about approximately 40 officers whose names were mentioned—excluding the Ad Hoc Commission's report, which is treated separately, and excluding the officers who are no longer in the Armed Forces, there are only approximately eight or nine left. If my memory does not fail me, based on the analysis we have made, most of them, or perhaps all of them, are not directly involved in crimes, knew about crimes, or could have done something to prevent them. We are considering the relationship between the amnesty law and the constitutional right to work.

[Moderator] [words indistinct]

[Reporter] High-ranking Armed Forces officers, the UN, and opposition parties have demanded an investigation to clarify who financed the death squads. What is the government's position on the subject, since there seems to be a consensus on that?

[Cristiani] We have said we will continue the investigations, as we have always done. Since we assumed power we have been investigating all groups that may be involved in this type of crime, known as death squads, or described as such. We will continue to try to prevent activities of that nature. Should there be any such cases, we will act firmly against this type of violence.

Is it possible, however, to investigate something that occurred in 1980? Are circumstances the same now? We must determine if those efforts are worthwhile. We understand that the Truth Commission stated its opinion on what it believes happened years ago. We are committed to current investigations. It is useless to investigate something the commission already investigated. Although the commission said further investigations are necessary, this does not necessarily mean that

we must continue investigating what happened in the 1980's but that investigations should continue to eradicate those groups. We have been conducting investigations to prevent such activities.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] said past actions should be thoroughly investigated. This was also demanded by the defense minister, opposition parties, and the UN. What is the government position with regard to investigating past actions? The Truth Commission said it did not have enough time or the necessary funds for that.

[Cristiani] We can do it, but it is very difficult to investigate actions committed 10 or 11 years ago. As I said, we must determine what is best for the country: investigating actions that occurred in the past or preventing the existence of those groups at present and preventing violence of that nature.

[Lemus] President Cristiani said we have already entered a new phase in complying with the Ad Hoc Commission's report. He added changes in the military will take place in an orderly fashion. He announced that Deputy Defense Minister General Juan Orlando Zepeda will leave his post in the beginning of April. Cristiani has not yet confirmed if he has accepted the resignation of Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce.

Within the framework of the meeting he will hold with President Chamorro, Cristiani said they will evaluate Nicaragua's adherence to the so-called Central American Northern Triangle—Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—for the creation of a free trade zone. He added that they will also discuss the terms of payment for Nicaragua's debt with El Salvador as a means to contribute to Nicaragua's socioeconomic reactivation.

Judges, Magistrates Association Criticizes Truth Commission

PA3003020493 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report by Dagoberto Coreas]

[Text] The Association of Judges and Magistrates of El Salvador [Asociacion de Jueces y Magistrados de El Salvador] on 29 March said the Truth Commission report has turned falsehood into truth. Association President Guillermo Arevalo Dominguez said the Truth Commission report will serve as a moral incentive to find the truth to denounce the commission's lies. Association members denied the Judicial Branch obstructed the commission's investigations:

[Begin Arevalo recording] My dear reporters, we gave that report the following title: *From Falsehood To Truth.* It is our moral duty to find the truth and to denounce lies. We are deeply worried about the possible effects of references to us in the Truth Commission report; that is, references to the justice system to which we belong. We decided to organize within the Association of Judges and Magistrates of El Salvador to face any partial or politically motivated action. We will issue opinions as often as necessary on all aspects pertaining to the smooth management of the Judicial Branch and to its administrative and operational problems. [end recording]

Arevalo said the Truth Commission report contains erroneous judgments because of a lack of legal evidence. He added the commission overstepped its duties and its report contains major flaws because of its political motivation.

[Begin Arevalo recording] The Truth Commission report contains serious flaws because it is partial and politically motivated. It seems its goal is to destabilize the system to justify a foreign presence or intervention that goes beyond acceptable bounds. Gentlemen, let us recall the commission's mandate was limited to investigating serious acts of violence committed since 1980, in keeping with political agreements reached to end the civil conflict that afflicted the nation for 12 years. The commission, however, lost its orientation and made destructive and anarchical accusations against the judicial system. The commission did not have legal and jurisdictional powers to recommend the replacement, from top to bottom, of all magistrates and judges who served throughout the war, as urged by commission member Dr. Belisario Betancur. [end recording]

Arevalo said the Truth Commission is blaming the current Supreme Court of Justice but has no authority to do so.

[Begin Arevalo recording] It is absurd and unacceptable to accuse the Supreme Court of obstructing investigations when the truth is the commission had access to and received plenty of information and tools to carry out its task. Here is an example, gentlemen: In this same auditorium the judge from Gotera told you the Truth Commission was the one that actually obstructed and delayed the investigation into the El Mozote case. [end recording]

The president of the Association of Judges and Magistrates of El Salvador urged all administrators of justice to not resign and thus to not comply with the recommendations of the Truth Commission report, which demanded the resignation of Judicial Branch officials, including Association President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, because they are protected by the Constitution.

Station Views Calderon Sol Presidential Candidacy

PA3003003193 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta's death, it is evident the current governing party, the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Party, is practically left without a leader to unite it. The strident

anticommunism banner brandished by D'Aubuisson and his followers was probably useful during the war. One must admit, however, that many crimes were committed against innocent, poor people in El Salvador because of their volatile ideology.

At any rate, the war has concluded for most Salvadorans, but, apparently, the Arena refuses to abandon its political strategy of fighting as if the conflict continued. The Arena continues to see all those who disagree with or oppose its policy, including those who do so within the Arena party, as its enemies. It is a well-known fact that large and average businessmen and key Army officers do not side with the current Arena leaders, especially with its president, Armando Calderon Sol.

According to those citizens, Calderon Sol is far from being a flexible politician or a government official that will accelerate the necessary democratic change being carried out in the country. He is, obviously, a very quarrelsome, impulsive, and stubborn politician and his past work is not very acceptable in political terms.

To be the Arena presidential candidate at this time has a high political cost, primarily because the party's founder, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, organized the death squads and the Truth Commission indicated that he is the main culprit in the murder of Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

We must add, however, that Arena probably has some points in its favor. Under its administration, the Salvadoran economy has certainly grown, but unemployment has done so too. Our industrial, commerce, and construction sectors have recovered but poverty and the high cost of living have worsened. Also, programs detrimental to the environment and the Salvador's water supply have been approved.

We also have to admit that Mayor Calderon Sol has carried out social works during his administration. For example, he built markets, installed water valves, and improved the parks and residential area sidewalks. He also has, however, evicted and mistreated many street vendors in downtown San Salvador.

Despite all this, we Salvadorans will evaluate the Arena and its people in March 1994. The Arena will have to work hard to remove the stigma of the death squads.

Guatemala

Anonymous Death Threats Against Union, Civic Leaders

PA3003031793 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Several anonymous bulletins have been issued stating that death threats against 24 people will be carried out beginning on 31 March. The list includes journalists, union leaders, officials of nongovernmental organizations and international agencies, and academic personalities. They are to be punished for their alleged connections with the guerrillas and their organizations.

Among those listed are Hugo Arce, Marco Augusto Quiroa, Carlos Rafael Soto, Haroldo Sanchez, Marco Vinicio Mejia, Byron Barrera, Mario Roberto Morales, and Danilo Rodriguez—all working in the field of journalism as commentators and columnists in the local news media.

The anonymous communiques accused them of being spokespersons, defenders, and supporters of the guerrillas and their organizations. They warned that if these individuals wish to stay alive they must publicly renounce their destabilizing activities, or seek other horizons elsewhere. They are accused of being accomplices of "self-designated commanders" and of using the news media, their time, and their effort in support of subversion.

Others on the death threat list are union leaders Byron Morales of Unsitragua [Guatemalan Workers's Trade Union], Romero Moterrosa from UASP [Labor and Popular Action Union], and Victor Gudiel, the secretary general of the AEU [Association of University Students]. Also on the list are Helmer Velasquez, Oscar Azmitia, Mario Silvestre, Alberto Moterroso, Raquel Gartz, Rodolfo Azmitia Jimenez, Alberto Echeverria, Ricardo Stein, Hector de Leon Sagastume, Ruben Mejia, Edgar Franco Rivera, and Andres Campos.

Peace Negotiations Stall on Date To End Hostilities

PA3003010393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, have decided to allow the participation of civilian sectors in the peace process but they are now unable to reach agreement on the best date for the end of the armed conflict. Reports from Mexico City indicate that representatives of the two sides are discussing the calendar for the peace process, but the negotiations have bogged down on this point, even though relative progress has been achieved on other aspects.

Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, the conciliator, said that when the two sides reached the point where they had to establish the most prudent date for the end of hostilities, the discussions went nowhere. This is a big obstacle, Quezada Toruno said, adding that there has been progress on other aspects. The dates the government and the URNG are proposing to end the hostilities were not made known. The only thing that is known is that these dates do not coincide. There was also no great progress made on 28 March during discussions on human rights. Msgr. Quezada said the current meeting will probably end on 30 March.

On 26 March, the negotiators meeting in Mexico City approved a mechanism for the participation of civilian sectors in the peace process. Through this mechanism,

these sectors will prepare documents with initiatives dealing with the points in the negotiation agenda and these will be submitted to the two sides one week before each meeting.

After Holy Week, Msgr. Quezada Toruno will call the civilian sectors to a forum in which the conditions for their participation in this process will be established. Business and labor sectors have begun to comment on the agreement reached by the government and the URNG for their participation in the peace process.

Mayors Occupy Cathedral To Demand Budget Allocation

PA3003031393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The mayors of 287 municipalities insisted on 29 March on their demand that 8 percent of the national budget be given to municipalities. A group of mayors seized the Metropolitan Cathedral, the country's main Catholic church, to draw attention to their demand. The occupation disrupted religious services at the cathedral on 29 March.

The group of mayors said they were carrying out a decision adopted by the National Association of Municipalities [Asociacion Nacional de Municipalidades—ANAM] as a last resort so the overdue 8 percent payments will be allocated immediately. The mayors asked Guatemala City Archbishop Monsignor Prospero Penados Del Barrio to personally receive their document and present it directly to President Jorge Serrano. The mayors refused to have Juan Daniel Aleman, political affairs secretary of the Presidency, act as intermediary to report their demands to the president. Archbishop Penados Del Barrio and Juan Daniel Aleman met with the mayors at the archbishop's office to discuss the situation.

Nicaragua

FSLN Rejects President's International Commission Proposal

PA2703163893 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] On 25 March, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] officially rejected the formation of an international commission, as was announced by the government of President Violeta Chamorro. Daniel Ortega, FSLN secretary general, presented the Sandinist Party's position regarding the announcement of a Friends of Nicaragua Commission.

[Begin D. Ortega recording] Whoever believes such a commission can take action against the FSLN is not thinking right. I believe that is the intention of the people who have proposed and backed this type of commission. Such a commission will have the Sandinists as its target. Its objective is to go against the FSLN. We, of course, cannot accept such a commission.

To overcome the climate of confrontation in Nicaragua and to normalize the relations between the United States and Nicaragua, we believe we should not revert to the past. This is our position. The United States should give the cooperation it wants to give Nicaragua without any conditions and Nicaraguans should find the solutions to our differences on our own. [end recording]

The Sandinist leader also said he approved of the national dialogue, but believed it should be held between the government and the country's productive forces. Daniel Ortega added that talks between politicians are unnecessary because Nicaragua's problems are economic and social.

[Begin Ortega recording] The ones who can best contribute to this topic are the producers and the workers. The politician's mission should be to contribute to create the appropriate climate for a socioeconomic agreement to be reached. The government should be receptive to the proposal of the [word indistinct] and workers. We could, thus, recover some of the trust in the country, depolarize it, and start to achieve a minimum amount of stability. [end recording]

FSLN Members Demand Solutions at Upcoming Congress

PA3003043793 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 2

[Communique issued by Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, members to the Sandinist Assembly; date and place not given]

[Text] Communique

To: The Sandinist Assembly
From: Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, members who are committed to the FSLN's future.

In reference to the upcoming Sandinist Assembly meeting, which has been announced for 27 and 28 March, we, as FSLN members, feel obliged to let you know our thoughts regarding the FSLN's future and the role you should play in it.

Since the First FSLN Congress, we expected the Sandinist Assembly to be more active in finding solutions to the big problems we confronted at that time.

Our expectations for proposals and measures to emerge from the Sandinist Assembly have been foiled repeatedly because of a lack of leadership and because the assembly has been disregarded.

We reiterate our trust in you, who were individually elected by the Congress, and demand that in the next meeting you present solutions to problems that are negatively affecting Sandinist unity, including party management, ethics, and FSLN assets.

We know there are many groups and members who share our thoughts and we hope that they will speak up and adhere to what we are requesting from the Sandinist Assembly members.

[Signed] Oscar Rene Vargas, Daisy Zamora, Fernando Silva, Carlos Tunnermann, Luis Rocha, Julio Valle Castillo, and William Agudelo. More signatures follow.

UNO Supports Verification Commission Initiative

PA2703213493 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Mar 93 pp 1,16

[Report by Alvaro Cruz Rojas]

[Text] According to a letter sent to U.S. Congressmen Christopher Smith and Bob Livingston, the UNO [National Opposition Union] Political Council expressed its approval for the establishment of a Verification Commission that will be in charge of investigating accusations made against the Nicaraguan Government, but not without first suggesting the inclusion of other topics on the agenda. The two congressmen were the main proponents of the initiative.

The coalition, in addition to investigations into the accusations, suggested in its letter the inclusion of other topics such as the use and destiny of external aid funds and their effect on the state enterprise privatization program, as well as restructuring the Judicial Branch.

On the other hand, the UNO coalition has also called for an investigation into drug-trafficking, money laundering, arms and passports trafficking, the origins of the paramilitary group known as the Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI], the uncovered secret cemeteries, as well as the return of confiscated property.

With respect to the FPI issue, the coalition urges an in-depth investigation into the origins and objectives of the group, which they describe as "terrorists who murder the country's democratic leaders."

This group claimed responsibility for the murder of Dr. Arges Sequeira Mangas, a Leon department rancher and politician, who headed the National Federation of Owners of Confiscated Property [FNC] as well as being a Constitutionalist Liberal Party [PLC] director.

Likewise, they express their agreement with the appointment of a U.S. Congressional bipartisan group in order to follow up the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations made by the commission.

Congressman Smith recently addressed a letter to the UNO Political Council requesting their reaction to the proposal. In turn, the coalition responded by stating that "they share the Congress' concern, and support the initiative to establish a fact verification commission [comision de verification de hechos]."

This commission pretends to carry out a task similar to the so-called "Truth Commission" that was formed during the peace process in El Salvador.

The commission would investigate allegations related to corruption as well as the charges made by former Nicaraguan Government official Antonio Ibarra Rojas who is accused of having misappropriated approximately $1 million in public funds. Ibarra recently presented a sworn deposition to the U.S. Congress where he implicates Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and other high Nicaraguan Government officials and military officers in the case.

The Nicaraguan Government reaction to the initiative has been positive, and Minister Lacayo recently expressed his agreement with the formation of the said commission.

In announcing the proposal to the nation, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo stated that "he who has a clear conscience has nothing to fear." Should the proposal become a reality, it would serve to strengthen the democratic system as well as the Nicaraguan Government's credibility.

Meanwhile, Daniel Ortega, former president and Sandinist leader, said that he disagreed with the creation of the commission which he described as meddling [injerencista], and alleged that "we (the Sandinists) do not agree with it because such a commission is not feasible."

In a very worried tone, Ortega announced his intention to write the UN and OAS secretaries general to express the Sandinist position on the commission. He also expressed his hope that the Nicaraguan Government would reject the proposal.

Leon Producers Declare State of Economic Emergency

PA2903220193 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Mar 93 pp 1, 17

[Communique issued by the Leon Chamber of Commerce on 25 March 1993]

[Text] The business, industrial, agricultural, and service organizations of Leon and Chinandega Departments have met at the Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal Hall of the Leon Chamber of Commerce, where they were all duly represented. Following the meeting they notified all their members, the government of the Republic, and the national and international public of the following pronouncement:

I. We have formed the Committee for the Defense and Development of the Western Region. It is made up of delegates from each one of the groups represented.
II. The assembly has decided to declare a state of economic emergency in the Western Region in view of the grave crisis provoked by the government and the powers of the state, which has completely abandoned our people, particularly the dispossessed.

III. We therefore declare that the people are unable to pay their economic commitments to the state, the decentralized public services, and the banks.
IV. We charge that the financial and judicial systems of the state are being used against our groups.
V. We demand the government of the Republic, specifically the powers of the state that have a responsibility toward the groups in our region, hold an urgent meeting with us no later than 0900 on 31 March 1993 at the Municipal Convention Center in Leon.

Should this patriotic call not be heeded, the government of the Republic will be responsible for a halt in the agricultural, production, industrial, commercial, and service activities of the Western Region.
VI. We notify the government of the Republic that we are declaring ourselves in permanent session until our proposals are solved in an immediate and satisfactory manner.

Issued in Leon at 2300 on 25 March 1993.

Panama

Editorial on Reversion of Canal, Properties

PA2803165993 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Legislation for Transition"]

[Text] For generations the struggle to recover Panamanian territory and assert sovereignty over all of it has demanded the sacrifice and effort of thousands of people who, filled with patriotism, dedication, and a clear sense of purpose, made the Canal Treaties possible, which declare the last day in this century as the last day of U.S. presence in Panama.

In addition to updating the terms for the foreign presence and clarifying long-standing irregularities and abuses, the Torrijos-Carter Treaties also serve to better understand the management of the waterway, collection of taxes, and maintenance of structures, making it possible for the Canal to help support the nation and provide the revenue required to give impetus to the country's financial development and economic growth.

As part of the Panamanian people's nationalist redemption and improvement, the government created the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI]. It is the responsibility of the ARI to draft adequate Canal policies for social improvement and ecological protection, as well as making an inventory and taking possession of reverted real estate and other assets worth an estimated $20 billion.

In this regard, and seven years before the Canal reverts to the Panamanian Government, a team of qualified experts is busy conducting for the U.S. Congress a study to change the Panama Canal Commission administrative structure and make the transition easier, in accordance with Panama's reality.

The reason for this is simple. There has never been a civilian administration of the Canal. Its management has always been assigned to the U.S. Defense Department. The Canal has been geared to military activities, an approach that must be changed.

The study is intended to lead to bills, which according to Panamanian law, will serve as guidelines for the Canal administration. The governments of the two countries will determine in due time if these bills are positive or negative.

A casual observer will have no trouble recognizing the simple truth that the reversion of Canal land, corporation, and structure management to Panama demands this country take measures to ensure the Canal's continued and efficient operation. This requires paying special attention to the recommendations in the final report, which is scheduled to be released October 1993.

The Panama Canal is the world's eighth wonder and reflects man's creative genius. A World Engineers Congress was held to select the most appropriate and promising project for joining the two oceans. One century after such a meeting, the Panamanian people, with lofty expectations and understanding that the Latin words Pro Mundi Beneficio embellishing the national coat of arms also include the children of the homeland, must gather from all sources and from every direction the ideas and suggestions that will pave the way for a successful Canal administration beyond 2000.

We expect the conclusions and modernization plans for the Canal and its reversion to the nation's economy will get the utmost attention from the local authorities. This is the only guarantee to ensure the understanding this far-reaching event demands.

As a simple illustration of the need for this understanding, we will mention that the shortage of barges has made it impossible to transport the more than 300,000 tons of earth and rocks from the widening of the Culebra Cut to raise the seabed in the Bay of Panama, although such barges have been requested again and again from the National Tourism Institute. The Canal resources should be used for the country's progress.

Poll Shows Citizens Think Economy Will Remain Same

PA2903183493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Mar 93 p 1a

[Article by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] According to a recent poll conducted in Panama by Central American CID/Gallup, Panamanians' economic situation will remain the same over the next 12 months, and if there is any improvement, it will be very small.

Opinions were more positive than negative about the future of Panamanian families, but the largest group felt that "things will remain the same."

This same poll showed a slight improvement in Panamanians' opinion of their own economic situation in the last six months.

The most recent results showed less optimism among those questioned in the countryside than among those in the capital city.

CID/Gallup interviewed 1,200 Panamanians, and only six out of 100 felt that their family's situation would improve very much within the next 12 months. A total of 5 percent felt their status would worsen.

Among those participating in the CID/Gallup poll, 33 percent said there would be "some" improvement in their situation over the next 365 days.

Nonetheless, the poll showed that optimism grew between September 1992 and March 1993. The number of those who said it would worsen decreased, and the same happened with the group of those who expected their situation to improve, but not by much.

CID/Gallup conducted the poll between 25 February and 5 March. They interviewed 1,200 Panamanians in their homes. Only one person per family was polled.

Argentina

Second Army Contingent Departs for Croatia

PY3003031993 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2303 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (TELAM)—The second contingent of the 3rd Argentine Army Battalion (BEA-3) left today for Croatia to join the "blue helmets" of the UN organization that seeks to pacify the region.

The second BEA-3 contingent was bid farewell during a ceremony held at the "industrial area" of Ezeiza International Airport chaired by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Martin Balza.

The mission of Argentine Army and National Border Police troops in the territory of the former Yugoslavia is to "pacify and demilitarize" the zone, fulfilling UN resolutions to end the civil war being fought by different ethnic and religious groups.

On bidding farewell to the troops, Balza said that the participation of the Argentine Army troops he is heading in peace missions is of a "subsidiary" nature. He said: "You have the respect of your fellow citizens and the unrestricted support" of the Army chiefs.

He added that these missions of the "blue helmets" which, "added to our war experience, will represent an essential component of the renewal thrust that will surely accompany the modernization process our force is facing."

The BEA-3 is made up of 862 troops who will replace those of the BEA-2, who have just ended their mission of almost six months in the zone of the Balkans.

The 276 men, who comprise the second contingent of BEA-3, left aboard a "Boeing 747" plane from a commercial airline company for Zagreb. The plane will make a stopover in Dakar, capital of Senegal.

This unit is under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Bendini and shares its jurisdiction with forces from Canada, Jordan, and Nepal, preventing confrontations between Serbians and Croats.

The only casualties recorded in the previous units sent by Argentina occurred in an accident, when a truck that was transporting BEA-1 troops fell into a cliff killing two noncommissioned officers and injuring 20 others.

Brazil

Congress Still Undecided About Industrial Property Code

PY2803200393 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 24 Mar 93 pp 86, 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After two years of discussions and five different bills, the Brazilian Congress has not yet been able to produce an acceptable industrial property code. Brazil remains one of the four countries in the world that does not fully protect inventions. There is a minority that is satisfied with the absence of civilized rules and regulations, and piracy advocates finally gained Brasilia's support. Last week the Chamber of Deputies received the latest version of a bill on industrial property that was eagerly prepared by a group of midlevel experts, approved by ministers, and endorsed by President Itamar Franco. This bill is a sham. It has the same shortcomings that served as guidelines for the protected computer market. The bill has generous goals, but it will be disastrous in practice.

Exceptions

Patents are a mechanism to achieve a balance between society's interest in scientific development and researchers' economic interests. In a way, patents are like copyrights; that is, the acknowledgment received by a book's writer or the inventor of a new computer program for their work. Patents protect inventions from industrial use. Brazil recognizes patents in a general way, such as those for equipment, industrial design, and tools but makes an exception for medicine, chemical products, metallic alloys, foodstuffs, and biotechnology inventions. Here lies the problem. Congress is discussing the patents law as a whole to resolve what should be done with the exceptions. According to the government's bill, for which a new version was drawn up last week, piracy was disguised but remains firm. The following are the bill's controversial points:

* Biotechnology inventions remain unprotected. Among the 1,522 medicines being researched in the United States, 158 are biotechnological products. Last year, four inventions obtained through genetic engineering began to be sold to Americans who suffer from cancer and hemophilia. These inventions will not be manufactured in Brazil as long as there exists the threat of piracy.
* Brazil will only recognize patents for medicines that still are not being sold anywhere in the world. Strangely enough, this idea is being championed by the experienced Deputy Roberto Freire, the government leader [in the Chamber of Deputies]. In practice, this means that everything that already exists in other countries may continue to be pirated in Brazil.
* Only the patents of products manufactured in Brazil will be respected. If an industry judges that the manufacturing of one of its inventions is economically unviable in our country, it will lose its right to protection.

Generosity

On 23 March, for the second time in the Chamber of Deputies' history, its plenary became a general committee for the discussion of the Industrial Property Code. Deputy Ney Lopes, the sponsor for a bill preceding the government bill, championed the full recognition of patents. Government leader Roberto Freire, who battled for Planalto Palace's nationalist bill, positioned himself with the opposition group. For the group

that wants to establish a protection network for medicines and biotechnology, it is not possible to charge for the invention of medicines because they are everyone's property. Ennio Candotti, president of the Brazilian Society for Scientific Development, SBPC, says: "Scientific knowledge represents a benefit for mankind." Senator Roberto Campos says the SBPC has become a SBPP, Brazilian Society for Piracy Protection. Everyone knows that scientific knowledge is the property of mankind, but this type of remark is effective in college talk alone. The problem is that research costs money and the countries that do not protect inventions do not manage to attract them to their territories.

The law that the government wants to pass meets the demands of the national pharmaceuticals industry. This is the reason for all the fuss. There are 450 Brazilian laboratories that control about 28 percent of the market. These laboratories do not conduct any research work. Therefore, they are not interested in protecting inventions. These laboratories are growing—quantity wise, not quality wise—under the protection of a protected market system that has lasted 22 years. The protected market system's goal was defensible: to allow the growth of the national medicines industry free from the pressures of the mighty foreign laboratories. This was a common practice in many countries like Italy, which used this system until 1978. Today, this system has been abandoned. In Brazil, national laboratories, with just a few exceptions, are manufacturing syrups. The country must import the most sophisticated medicines. [passage omitted]

Economic Cooperation Projects With Cuba Approved

PY2803030093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Havana, 26 Mar (EFE)—It was reported in Havana today that, after four rounds of negotiations in Havana this week, Cuba and Brazil have approved eight economic cooperation projects and reached an agreement to open a direct maritime service.

The Brazilian delegation, comprising 36 executives from 22 Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce companies, the largest one to visit the island since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Brazil in 1986, had presented 14 joint-venture projects to its Cuban counterpart.

The agreements include the establishment of a joint venture in Brazil to manufacture equipment for the sugar industry for export to third countries, the mining of nickel, the expansion of a citrus-processing plant, the recycling of tires, and tourism.

Milton Peretti, who headed the Brazilian delegation and is the Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce vice president, said that, during the negotiations in the Cuban capital, progress was achieved on a project to manufacture tourism buses and on another project to establish a joint venture that will provide services at airports.

Upon returning to Brazil on 26 March, the Brazilian trade delegation is carrying to Brazilian entrepreneurs a proposal, including another 130 Cuban projects of available industrial capacities, 36 of which enjoy a priority status, to be studied for future deals.

The Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce, established in 1989, groups 94 companies that contribute 63 percent of Brazil's gross domestic product. During the visit, the Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce inaugurated its branch office in Havana.

Deposits Into British Banks Increase 50 Percent

PY2903215293 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Mar 93 Section 1 p 9

[Article by Leao Serva from London]

[Text] In the last three months of 1992, Brazilian deposits in British banks increased by 50 percent, surpassing $1.5 billion.

According to data released yesterday by the British central bank, the Bank of England, the apparent new Brazilian "flight of capital" began in September at the most critical stage of former President Fernando Collor's impeachment process.

The data has only been confirmed through 31 December, but the British financial market expects an increase in the amount of deposits during the first three months of 1993.

The report "Banking Statistics—UK Banks International Businesses" points out that the number of Brazilian deposits (by individuals and corporations) in British banks through September 1992 had been stable.

After nine months of deposits oscillating between $1.054 billion in March 1992 and $1.088 billion in September the deposits suddenly increased, until they reached $1.575 billion on 31 December.

Antonio Luiz de Carvalho, director of the Real Bank's office in London, said: "There has been a flight of capital. It began at the time of the impeachment and continued as a result of the insecurity created by the rumors surrounding the Haddad plan."

French Company Said Not Complying With Aeronautic Contract

PY2903214293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Mar 93 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—The French state-owned company Aerospatiale, which sold 72 helicopters to the Brazilian Army, has not been complying with the contract signed with Brazil in 1988. This has been reported by General Durval de Andrade Nery, commander of the Army aviation brigade, who signed the contract and is in charge of controlling compliance with its terms. The

contract establishes that France must invest $312 million in the Brazilian aeronautic industry to compensate for the identical amount Brazil paid for the helicopters.

Gen. Nery explained that in addition to exporting Brazilian products, the compensatory clause contemplates nationalization of maintenance services on the equipment purchased through the contract.

France should have invested $147 million in Brazilian companies by December 1991 but invested only $72.5 million. According to Nery, 15 Brazilian companies could have received this investment, but so far only Helibras S.A. [Brazilian Helicopters, Inc.], and the Engesa-Engenheiros Especializados S.A. [Specialized Engineers, Inc] have been favored with the transfer of French technology.

Chile

Explosive Device Disrupts Subway Services 29 Mar

PY2903170293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report from mobile unit by William Rebolledo]

[Text] Santiago subway services are working partially today with trains running only between the southern part of Gran Avenida and Franklin stations where arriving trains switch tracks to return.

There are no subway services to Rondissone or Parque O'Higgins stations because an explosive device exploded early this morning, damaging a switch box at Sacie crossing, some 1,200 meters from the Sodesca subway station.

Special Police Operations Group personnel are still checking the line that is inoperative at the very peak of the city-bound rush hour because, we repeat, subversives have bombed the subway line.

We repeat: Subway services are not available at Los Heroes, Santana, or Mapocho stations, inbound trains from the south go only as far as Franklin station. A bomb exploded at Sacie crossing.

'FPMR-A' Claims Responsibility

PY2903210393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1608 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Santiago, 29 Mar (NA-AFP)—The police reported today that a dynamite charge seriously damaged a section of Line Two of the Santiago metropolitan highway early this morning.

The left-wing Autonomous Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR-A) claimed credit for the explosion, which took place at 0640 local time (1040 GMT). The FPMR-A spokesman explained that the attack was carried out to "honor the young people who died in the struggle against former military President Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship (1973-1990) and under the civilian bourgeois administration of (Patricio) Aylwin" (1990-1994).

The FPMR-A spokesman, who called newspapers, radio stations, and news agencies, explained that the explosive device contained 2 kg of dynamite.

The bomb was placed on the tracks of a subway branch near Toesca Station in downtown Santiago. Nobody was injured by the explosion, but train services were discontinued at the peak of rush hour and caused urban transportation problems.

Earlier the FPMR-A had claimed credit for the downing of two high-tension towers near Santiago, the partial destruction of a bus by fire, and an aborted attack with a LAW [light antitank weapon] rocket against the headquarters of the multinational company IBM. These actions were carried out on 27 and 28 March.

'Extremist' Groups Mark Combatant Day With Attacks

PY2903025493 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] With a number of attacks with explosives and firebombs, extremist groups today celebrated the Day of the Young Combatant. Two high-tension towers were the targets of these actions.

The first extremist action took place at a high-tension tower at km 24 on Route 68, near the Locado tunnel. Unidentified individuals planted an explosive device at the foot of the tower, which caused serious damage to the tower but failed to cut off the electricity supply. Traffic in the area had to be stopped, however, to lift cables that dropped on the highway.

In San Fernando, another explosive device caused considerable damage to high-tension tower No. 194 of the Itahue-Cerro Navia line in the area of Cerro Centinela, some seven kilometers from the town.

In the capital, a firebomb was left by unidentified people on a bus that runs between Cerro Navia and Las Condes, causing a small fire in the bus. Moreover, GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] officials defused a LAW [light antitank weapon] rocket equipped with an electronic device. This rocket was found near the Salvador subway station, near the IBM building located on the opposite side of the place where the bomb was found.

In each of these extremist actions, police found papers from the Lautaro Group and the Manuel Rodriguez Front referring to this as the Day of the Young Combatant.

Lautaro Group Woman Dies in Shootout With Carabineros

PY2803031993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The woman who died last night during a shootout with Carabineros had a lengthy record of terrorist activities. More than 10 Lautaro Group members have been arrested in the last few hours.

The woman belonged to the Lautaro Group leadership. She is suspected of having participated in various terrorist actions, among them bank holdups and attacks on Carabineros and Investigative Police officers. She died while being taken to the main first aid unit after a shootout with Carabineros force members. Norma Vergara Caceres, also known as La Chile, Rosana, Pamela, or Alicia, arrived at the first aid unit under the identity of Guillermina Montoya. [passage omitted]

During the shootout in which the female terrorist was killed, Juan Tapia Olivares, 30, was wounded and Lautaro Group member Luis Valdes Garay arrested.

This new blow to the terrorist group adds to the arrest of Delfin Diaz, second in command and the Lautaro Group's chief of operations. With Diaz, police arrested two other men and a woman. Police operations now are focused on the arrest of the Lautaro Group's leader, Guillermo Ossandon, also known as Diego Carvajal. [passage omitted]

Senate Approves Bill Creating Public Security Committee

PY2903215493 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 24 Mar 93 p 10

[Text] The Senate yesterday unanimously approved the joint commission's report on the bill creating the Public Security and Intelligence Board [Direccion de Seguridad Publica e Informaciones], which must now be promulgated as law by the president of the Republic.

The initiative, which for its creation had to overcome serious differences between the two congressional chambers, managed to achieve a successful end when government and opposition congressmen reached an agreement on the coordination of the new organization that will be subordinate to the Interior Ministry.

The differences that had emerged led to the creation of a joint commission to make a decision on almost all articles of the project, supporting the position adopted by the Senate on the matter.

This new board will submit to the Interior Ministry all information, studies, analyses, and assessments of intelligence the government requires for the preparation of policies, the adoption of measures and specific actions concerning terrorist behavior, and crimes that might affect public order or the internal public security.

To fulfill this objective, the board will also count on the information that the police and public security officers will provide.

Moreover, the Public Security and Intelligence Board will be an organization coordinator of all information related to public order, state internal security, and intelligence assessment.

This newly-created board will be controlled by the General Controller's Office and will comprise 92 posts distributed among the board, the Analysis and Planning Division, the Coordination Division, the Legal Division, the Informatics Division, and the Administration and Finance Division.

The legal text of the document establishes the existence and functioning of the Consultative and Intelligence Committee headed by the Interior Minister and with the following officials serving as committee members: the Interior Ministry under secretary; a Defense Ministry under secretary; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; the public security director; the deputy chief of staff from the Defense Ministry; the chiefs of intelligence of each of the Armed Forces branches; and the corresponding chiefs of police and public security. This committee, which will meet upon the orders of the interior minister, will meet in a secret manner and its members will have to provide to the interior minister the information they might have on matters of interest to the board.

Helicopter Base in Cerrillos Reactivated

PY2903220793 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 19 Mar 93 p 6

[Summary] Interior Minister Patricio Rojas yesterday presided over the ceremony marking the reactivation of the helicopter base in Los Cerrillos. Present at the ceremony was Chilean Air Force Commander Ramon Vega, who during the solemn ceremony handed over the new combat banner to the Helicopters Group Number Nine. Six Bell UH-1 helicopters overflew the area while the land unit marched past the authorities. Group Number Nine has a large number of helicopters, Bell UH-1, Bolkow Kawasaki BK-117, and Lama, among others. These helicopters can be deployed to any point of the national territory if required, both in times of peace and for defense of the Chilean sovereignty, should it be necessary. Ricardo Klima, commander of Air Force Group Number Nine, stated: "The fatherland can rest assured that our helicopters will continue to fulfill the requirements we have to use them as instruments of war as well as elements of peace and hope at the service of the nation and for its development, uniting isolated zones and conducting rescue and salvage operations."

New Supreme Court Justice Assumes Office

PY2903215693 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Mar 93 p C9

[Text] Justice Victor Hernandez Rioseco, former member of the Concepcion Appellate Court, today will assume duty as the new member of the Supreme Court of Justice. Yesterday afternoon he was visiting the Justice Palace building.

Hernandez will fill the seat left vacant by the death of former Supreme Court President Enrique Correa Labra.

Government Asks U.S. To Jointly Convene Bryan Commission on Poisoned Grapes

PY2903190393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Chilean Government has asked the U.S. Government to jointly convene the Bryan Commission and thus resolve the poisoned grapes issue. Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma announced this following a meeting this morning with U.S. Ambassador Curtis Kamman.

Silva reported that the decision comes because no mutually satisfactory solution has been found at any of the forums.

[Begin Silva recording] This Foreign Ministry has formally invited the Government of the United States of America to jointly convene, on terms to be established, the commission provided for in the Bryan Treaty to investigate and report on this problem. [end recording]

The minister added that there is no deadline for the U.S. Government to answer. He added that if the U.S. Government turns down the request, Chile will have to resort to lengthy arbitration procedures. He concluded by saying that the U.S. Government has always been well-disposed to an agreement.

Main Suspect in Senator's Murder Arrested in Spain

PY2803031093 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Spanish police last night arrested Sergio Olea Gaona, the main suspect in Senator Jaime Guzman's murder.

Acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco reported that the Chilean Embassy in Spain will immediately resume negotiations to obtain Olea's extradition. [passage omitted]

This morning nobody was expecting such spectacular news. After praising the performance of Carabineros and the Investigative Police in the arrest of important Lautaro Group figures, acting Interior Minister Velasco disclosed the latest message sent by Interpol to the Chilean Investigative Police:

[Begin recording] Mr. Olea was arrested last night after it was established that he had participated in two holdups of banks in Madrid. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Colombia

Kidnapped U.S. Missionaries Said Held by FARC

PA3003041393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Report by Azucena Lievano]

[Text] Three U.S. missionaries kidnapped at Colombia's border with Panama two months ago are now being held hostage by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], it was reported by intelligence organizations. The guerrilla groups have threatened to kill the missionaries one by one if the ransom is not paid.

The three U.S. missionaries, Marc Rich, David Mancken, and Richard Tenenoff, were kidnapped on 31 January in the town of Pucuro, on the border between Colombia and Panama. They were working for the New Tribes Mission, which is part of the Linguistics Institute in the neighboring country.

The kidnapping led to the organization of a rescue operation named Operation Free Border, which included the participation of 200 Panamanian Public Force members with U.S. Southern Command logistical support. Initial reports indicated they had been kidnapped and brought to Colombia. The information was confirmed by Panamanian National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez.

[Begin Fernandez recording] It is a foreign group. They have been identified as members of the FARC. [end recording]

The Administrative Department of Security [DAS] has been able to confirm, by intercepting guerrilla communications, that the missionaries are being held by the FARC 4th Front, which operates in Uraba and has demanded a $5 million ransom. It has been learned that a member of the mission is handling the negotiations.

The following was heard in one of the radio intercepts: We have no money because we are only missionaries. The guerrilla answered: Then we will kill the first one if no considerable amount is offered in dollars.

The missionaries later said they could only pay $4,500. The threats to kill the hostages continue.

The New Tribes Mission has issued a press release stating the dialogue with the kidnappers continues. It added that they feel optimistic they will reach an agreement. Panamanian authorities have no information on this case.

[Begin recording, Interpol Agent Larain Perry, identified by screen caption] No, we have received no information.

We repeat, we are waiting for the Colombian Government to send us something. Rumor has it the hostages are being held in Colombia, but we have not been able to confirm that. [end recording]

The guerrilla group's communications were intercepted on 25 February but nothing else was heard about the missionaries. It is only known that over 30 people who comprise the New Tribes Mission will leave Darien Province. The hostages' relatives are now waiting for a reply from the Panamanian, Colombian, and U.S. Governments.

Attorney General's Office Reports Human Rights Violations

PA2903203493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Human rights continue to be violated. The attorney general also has reported human rights violations.

A few minutes ago, Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta reported a considerable number of human rights violations. It is alarming that 20 percent of these reports involve the police.

[Begin Arrieta recording] The crisis is great. There are more complaints against the police than any other institution. This is natural and inevitable. I think the plan we have devised, in which the Attorney General's Office will play a leading role, will enable us, if we are lucky and work hard enough, to lay the foundation for a new institution in which we will eliminate the credibility problems between the community and the police. [end recording]

Ecuador

Petroleum Enterprise Announces Allotment Plan

PA2903192893 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise officially announced that during 1993 it will allot 583 billion sucres to its investment programs. The projects include exploitation and exploration of hydrocarbons, storage, transportation, marketing, and industrialization of petroleum, and environmental protection.

Petroproduction and Petroamazonas are the branches that will receive the largest investments in 1993. The same sources added that in 1993 the production of crude oil in the country will reach 124 million barrels, with an average of 33,000 barrels per day [figures as heard].

Paraguay

Rodriguez Disavows 'Threats' by Colorado President

PY2903190093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 29 Mar 93 p 7

[Article by unidentified special correspondent]

[Text] San Ignacio, Misiones—President Andres Rodriguez yesterday publicly disavowed the threats by National Republican Association, Colorado Party, ANR President Blas N. Riquelme to incite his colleagues to use trickery to win the 9 May elections. Rodriguez said that Riquelme's words could only be interpreted as a joke but he insisted that he did not support what Riquelme said on that occasion in Tobati.

Asked about Riquelme's words, Rodriguez said: "You should pose this question to him, not to me."

He added that Riquelme's words could only be interpreted as a joke. Rodriguez said: "I accept what he said: that it was a joke. I do not share his view. As I have constantly repeated, I want the coming elections to be as clean, open, and democratic as possible."

Rodriguez added that only in this manner will people respect the results of the elections and the elected presidential candidate who will assume power on 15 August 1993.

During a chat with journalists while touring the Misiones livestock and industrial show, Rodriguez said that from his point of view the crisis within the Colorado Party is over.

He said: "I do not believe there is a crisis within the Colorado Party anymore. I think it has been overcome." By disavowing the statement by the ANR president, who exhorted Colorado Party leaders in Tobati to win the May elections by assault or through the use of tricks, Rodriguez sought to attenuate the harsh reactions that Riquelme's words have provoked among the opposition.

Military Household Chief Denies Charges of Ballot Rigging

PY2903224393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 5

[Text] Military Household Chief General Anibal Regis Romero yesterday flatly denied allegations to the effect that members of the Armed Forces were scheming against the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] by intending to rig results of the 9 May election. Regis stated: "I wholly deny that the Armed Forces are hatching a plot to go against the Constitution."

Hermes Rafael Saguier, a PLRA member, stated that he had information about certain members of the Armed Forces who were plotting to commit a fraud against his party.

Regis wondered how the Armed Forces could profit by engaging in ballot rigging. He said: "We would only tarnish the good name of the Armed Forces, which have been working on their professionalism since February 1989. I do not believe in the least that the Armed Forces are in a position to rig the election."

He then said that this is a time of electioneering throughout the country and that election campaigns are now well under way. He further stated that "they are trying every trick in the book to disrupt the transition to democracy. It seems that Mr. Saguier collects information that seeks to destabilize, but President Rodriguez commands enough authority to have the Constitution respected. He has total command of the Armed Forces and will not consent to having the constitutional order disrupted."

Regis said that "the people's will will be respected, which is precisely what President Rodriguez has been stressing for some time. Moreover, one must not overlook the fact that OAS observers will monitor the election."

He underscored the fact that the Armed Forces are highly professional and will only play the role assigned to them. He said: "We will respect whoever is elected president, because we hold the Constituion in the greatest respect."

PLRA Presidential Candidate Discusses Itaipu Dam

PY3003001493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Mar 93 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Domingo Laino, Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, presidential candidate by Daniel Perez; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Perez] In your electoral campaign you constantly mention the Itaipu Dam issue. Why do you attribute so much importance to this issue?

[Laino] I believe that, for many reasons, Itaipu is one of Paraguay's most important issues if not the most important one. The reasons are that Itaipu is our greatest wealth, that through this project our sovereignty is shared with Brazil, and that, as a result of corruption found in the two country's governments, our interests have been very much affected. Another reason is that in the next few decades, Itaipu must become our largest source of income. It must be the engine that drives our economic and social development. Itaipu is one of the levers that can rescue us from our underdevelopment, misery, and prostration. I am certain that, thanks to Itaipu, the national unity government through which we will govern the country, will rescue our people from the pit in which we find ourselves. [passage omitted]

[Perez] At the beginning of this interview you said that Itaipu will take us out of the pit. How do you think that could be done?

[Laino] After carefully studying this matter, we have concluded that by implementing our proposal to renegotiate the Itaipu Treaty we should be able to amend it, during a second stage that would end between 1994 and 1996, to include the desired just terms. This would allow us to dispose of what is legitimately ours; that is, to set a fair price for 50 percent of the energy generated by the dam and to be able to sell it to markets that would be willing to pay our asking prices. Between 1994 and 1996, these sales should bring about an income of nearly $1 billion annually, thanks to the Itaipu binational agency alone.

Furthermore, by merely forcing Brazil to comply with the terms of the treaty and by making the Itaipu plant operate at its best, Brazil should be paying us $260 million annually, instead of only $120 million. Because of the ineptness and negligence of our representatives, Brazil has not even paid us the $120 million on schedule.

If just this meager amount ($120 million) is currently earmarked for covering more than 50 percent of our budgeted educational expenses, more than 40 percent of our health costs, more than 50 percent of public works, and in sum, more than 22 percent of the national budget expenses, can you imagine what our government could do next year with an annual income from Itaipu that would be twice as much?

[Perez] Why are you saying that by just complying with the terms of the treaty, Brazil should be paying us $260 million annually and that if the treaty is renegotiated, it should be paying us nearly $1 billion?

[Laino] Article XIII of the treaty clearly states that calculations on compensations and royalties must be based on the installed power of the plant. Brazil has never complied with this clause because of the inept foreign policy of our governments, which have never been able to defend our rights. Besides, to suit Brazil's interests, the Itaipu Dam is generating less energy than it can. In our future government, we will make Paraguay's status as a sovereign country prevail. We know this is totally feasible. Thus, by making simple calculations we have concluded that by just implementing the terms of the treaty and by improving operational conditions Brazil would pay us $260 million annually.

Now, if the treaty is renegotiated—which we pledge to do—we will have a free hand to dispose of our share of the power generated by Itaipu. We will sell this energy at internationally accepted prices, which would be similar to those Argentina will pay us for the energy generated by the Yacyreta Dam. We know we can sell it at such prices and that Brazil will agree to pay these prices because the Itaipu-generated energy is essential for Brazilians. Calculations based on these possibilities, which are truly more than possibilities, have led us to conclude that we should be obtaining nearly $1 billion annually from Itaipu.

As the candidate of a respected party, I harbor the hope that we will reach this goal before the end of our term in

office. This commitment is shared by all of our candidates to elective offices within the executive and legislative branches. They too will play an extremely important role in this effort.

[Perez] If you are elected, do you think you will be able to do all that? What are you going to do to avoid Brazilian violations? Besides, how are you going to obtain more advantageous terms if the treaty is renegotiated?

[Laino] I not only believe but I am sure we will end Brazilian violations, because Paraguay is a sovereign state and Brazil is not a usurper but rather another sovereign state that is only defending its interests. Brazil has never used force and all of its advantages have stemmed from diplomatic skill. All this happened because our foreign policy has always been inept and managed by incapable people. Besides, the Paraguayan administration of the Itaipu dam has already been marked by corruption and inefficiency in defending our interests. Thus, Brazilian advantages and violations have been tolerated by senior officials of both the previous Paraguayan Government and this one. There has been a shameful complicity that our government will end once and for all. Those clauses that run contrary to our rights and interests, as well as Brazilian violations, have been possible only through the complicity of a few Paraguayans. My government will end all of this, the violations included.

As far as a renegotiation is concerned, our position is based on solid principles of international law and only through its implementation will we be able to even our rights with Brazil. Brazilians are aware of this and know who they are dealing with. They are aware of who the Paraguayan presidential candidates are and what proposals they are making. We are perfectly aware that if the Brazilians decide to contact us, they will not do it in disrespectful terms. Brazilian diplomacy has a great deal of prestige because its diplomats have a deep knowledge of international law and know how to use it to suit Brazilian needs and interests. In light of this knowledge, they are aware that our position is just and that it will lead them nowhere to violate the international rights of a sovereign state ruled by a democratic government, as ours will be, which is also aware of and capable of defending our interests.

[Perez] Could you mention what topics should be included in a renegotiation of the Itaipu Treaty?

[Laino] We consider it an absolute priority to renegotiate the entire treaty. We concur with Brazil on the need to update the bylaws of the binational agency, which is now managing a plant that is already in operation and it is no longer managing its construction. We do not accept, however, the lack of rotation in management because we believe its management should be based on a binational participation. Additionally, we will only agree to a full and shared management at all levels in keeping with the recommendations of the Paraguayan Senate and of prominent Paraguayan experts. We are aware of the significance of Annex "A," which establishes control over the agency and therefore entails the principle of sovereignty, which we will never renounce.

Furthermore, the renegotiation should not be limited to Annex "A," but should include the entire treaty, including Annex "C." The way it is worded now, "Annex C" does not allow us to freely and sovereignly dispose of what is ours; that is, of half of the energy generated by Itaipu. Similarly, all of the projects outlined in "Annex B" must be completed because most of them were only built on the Brazilian side and virtually nothing was built on the Paraguayan side. The construction of navigation locks, which will make the Parana River navigable again, is also a question of sovereignty.

In sum, a renegotiation can only be comprehensive and we support our claims on sound reasons and on guarantees recognized by international law.

[Perez] How do you suppose the Brazilian Government would react to a Paraguayan Government proposal to audit the cost of Itaipu?

[Laino] We are not looking at this issue in terms of how the Brazilian Government would react because we consider it to be a question of sovereignty and because we believe our country has every right to investigate the cost of a project, the ownership of which it shares with Brazil. Similarly, the Brazilian Government has every right to do the same and it may count on our firm support in this endeavor because, like our people, the Brazilian people have also been a victim of an embezzlement that could turn out to be the largest one in history. It should not be forgotten either that a major campaign is under way in Brazil to promote moralization and the rebirth of a code of ethics in politics. This campaign has gone as far as forcing the impeachment of a president on corruption charges following an unprecedented process that had the people, especially youths, as the main actors. The Brazilian executive, legislative, or judicial branch could also start an investigation on Itaipu at any time; we would be completely in favor of it.

Itaipu Dam Saboteur Identified; More Damage Found

PY2903185793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 21

[Report from regional office in Ciudad del Este]

[Text] On 26 March, three more stator bars of Turbine No. 6 of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam were found to be damaged. Although Itaipu official sources have remained silent on the subject it is known that the perpetrator is a Brazilian technician in charge of turbine windings who has been fired. The binational enterprise management has fully identified the culprit yet, strangely, the police have not been asked to arrest him.

On the evening of 26 March three more stator bars of Turbine No. 6 of Itaipu Binational Hydroelectric Dam were found to be damaged, thus confirming the claims of the alleged saboteur about additional undiscovered damage.

On 26 March, Itaipu personnel inspecting the stator bars of Turbine No. 6 found three more damaged bars. They were damaged during the general strike of Itaipu workers, just like the nine bars that were already found to be damaged.

The equipment was intentionally damaged by a Brazilian citizen who repeatedly telephoned Itaipu threatening to sabotage other turbines. The person, who apparently has been identified by Itaipu security personnel, is allegedly an employee of the binational company who made his calls from an office at the dam.

Itaipu Director General for Paraguay Miguel Luciano Jimenez, reported that the cost of repairing the damage to Turbine No. 6—which has been under repair since July 1992 when an explosion followed a short-circuit—is approximately $100,000.

Jimenez added that the cost of repairing the rods was not the worst part: More costly than the repairs is the delay in bringing the turbine on line because of the time needed to repair the damage.

It is expected that agreement on the much-delayed 1993 Itaipu budget will be announced this week. Paraguayan and Brazilian directors have approved an overall budget of $400 million, which will allow the company to implement investment projects.

Pilcomayo River Expert Says Argentina Violating Accord

PY2903203493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Mar 93 p 11

[Text] Engineer Luis Alberto Meyer, president of the Commission for the Multiple Exploitation of the Pilcomayo River, confirmed during a news conference yesterday that Argentina had again violated the terms of an agreement with our country when altering—by its own initiative—an experimental water inlet—that had to be built with similar characteristics on both margins—in an effective diversion channel by using a technical scheme that permanently changed the course of the river toward Argentine territory. The diversion hurts the river irrigation of our side which is essential for the region's ecological balance.

The issue is not new, since it began in October 1991. But the damaging effects against our country could only be correctly measured recently following a national commission member's visit to the lower and middle sections of the river.

The inlets or river bed works consist of the cleaning up and clearing of a river bed section 0.50 meters deep and 150 meters wide. "We expected similar work on both sides, but the Argentines opened another excavation—usually called a pilot channel—a little farther, measuring approximately 5 meters wide and 2 meters deep which did not begin at the center of the river bed and was not even seen from our side," Meyer said.

This channel was used to provide faster water flow, or to transform an inlet into a water diversion channel.

The Paraguayan delegation obviously protested the violation but the Argentines argued that there was not enough time to repair it because the flood season was nearing. National authorities and the commission have already taken the steps to see that the Argentine authorities correct the situation, however. We assure you that we wi[illegible]hat repairs be carried out.

The channel continues to take water to Argentine territory, however, including during low water periods or droughts while the tests done in El Canadon La Madrid, on the Paraguayan side, show that water no longer flows into Paraguayan territory. This proves that our country is fully complying with the agreement to divert excess waters only during flood seasons.

At some point in the delicate negotiations Argentina suggested that Paraguay build its own channel to take equal amounts of water. But engineer Meyer categorically opposed this. "We cannot accept the position that Paraguay open its own channel, because then we would be establishing the principle of partitioning water; we do not know where this precedent could take us," Meyer said.

Meyer said that Paraguay cannot accept the principle of water partitioning as long as it does not have a contour survey of the area and other studies so as to understand how the whole thing will work.

Meyer said that his Argentine counterparts must solve the problem created in the diversion channel this year before we can solve the problem of the filling up of the river bed and the disappearance of the Pilcomayo River.

Peru

Police Capture 1 of 32 Escapees; Search Continues

PA2903191293 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] After an intensive search, police and soldiers recaptured one of the 32 inmates who had escaped from the Quencoro prison in Cuzco. The man, Roque Castro Bernabe, a Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement member, was serving time for terrorism. The search for the remaining 31 escapees continues by land and air using an Army helicopter. Although the causes of the escape have not been determined, Minister of Justice Fernando Vega blamed the lack of police security at the prison.

The minister has announced plans to reinforce 50 of the country's 102 prisons by building maximum security pavilions. Cajamarca, Huaraz, and Llananmallo in Puno, Pucalpa, and Ayacucho, respectively, are included in the reinforcement plans. He said 90 percent of the prison buildings are in disrepair and suffer from poor police security, all of which facilitate escapes. He confirmed that three of the criminals killed while trying to escape were Shining Path members.

Guyana

Government Grants Asylum to Liberian, 7 Angolans

FL2903225093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report by Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 29, CANA—The Guyana Government has decided to grant political asylum to a Liberian and seven of 11 Angolans who came here seeking refugee status, a high-level official source told CANA on Monday.

The source, requesting anonymity, said the government had already advised United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acting regional representative, Francis Nnebe, to proceed with arrangements for the agency to fund the resettlement of the eight Africans here.

"The decision is to grant asylum to seven Angolans and the Liberian..," the source said. "We have interviewed them ourselves and based on those interviews, we have decided to go ahead and accept them."

Cabinet discussed the refugee issue at a meeting last Friday. Attorney General Bernard de Santos confirmed a decision was reached, but declined to give details.

"... That decision has been conveyed to the UNDP representative, but at this time cannot be made public until it is confirmed by the cabinet at its next sitting," De Santos told CANA.

A pan African organisation called the African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA) rejected the decision and demanded that all 12 Africans be granted asylum by the government.

ACDA spokeswoman, Violent Jean-Baptiste, told CANA: "If you give refugee status to a few of them, what are you going to do with the remainder?" The ACDA spokeswoman said the association wanted to know if the government planned to return the four Angolans who were not granted asylum to their war-torn nativeland.

"Are we returning them to Angola? We (blacks) have been bargained for throughout the centuries. We don't want to be in a position where we are making deals on people's lives... You take three and I take five. This reminds me of slave auction," she said.

Some of the Angolans are reportedly linked to the opposition UNITA Movement, which has resumed a war aimed at toppling the MPLA government it failed to dislodge in elections last year. The Angolans grabbed national headlines for several days after they illegally entered Guyana from neighbouring Brazil between December 30 last year and January 20. The Liberian was also discovered here around that time.